

REMARKS

Claim 8 has been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 8, 10, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Kaneko, et al. (U.S. 2,633,680) patent. Applicants have amended applicants' independent claim 8, and with respect to such claim, as amended, and its respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claim 8 has been amended to better define applicants' invention and to better distinguish the present invention from the cited references. More particularly, applicants' independent claim 8 has now been further amended to recite a conversion characteristic changing means for changing a conversion characteristic mode of said conversion means not to change the position of lens. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

More particularly, the Kaneko, et al. patent fails to teach or suggest the changing of a conversion characteristic mode of the conversion means not to change the position of the lens. The Examiner has, in fact, acknowledged this in arguing with respect to the Kaneko, et al. patent that "the mode selector means (19) changes the output signal characteristics converting means to implement a different method of moving the lens to a desired position. See column 3, lines 54-59 and column 4, lines 30-60."

Specifically, in the Kaneko, et al. patent, the position of the lens changes when switching the mode selector means among modes I, II and III. FIG. 4. In the Kaneko, et al. patent the switches SW₁ to SW₆ are interlocked with the mode selector means 19 so that the operation of the focus demand can be switched to and from a right-handed operation mode, or mode I, a left-handed operation mode, or mode II, and a linear operation mode, or mode III.

Col. 3, lines 52-59. In mode I, if the focus operating means is manipulated to move the focusing lens toward the nearest subject distance position or toward the infinite position from the current lens position, the resistance of a potentiometer is varied according to the extent of movement of the focus operating means to vary its output voltage. Col. 4, lines 4-9. In mode II, the output signal characteristics similar to those in mode I are obtained when the focus operating means 4 is manipulated in the opposite direction. FIG. 4; Col. 4, lines 45-48.

As shown in FIG. 4 of the Kaneko, et al. patent, if the mode selector means 19 switches from one mode to another, the position of the lens is also changed. More particularly, in operating the focus control device, the output signal from the output terminal of the signal characteristic means is compared with the current lens position signal from a potentiometer 7 to detect to what extent the focus operating means has been operated in a positive or negative direction, thereby obtaining a servo control signal for driving the focusing lens. Col. 4, lines 21-29. If the mode selector means 19 switches from a first mode to a second mode, the output signal in the first mode corresponds to a different lens position than the output signal in the second mode. FIG. 4. Therefore, according to FIG. 4 of the Kaneko, et al. patent, the position of the lens changes when the mode selector means 19 switches from one mode to another.

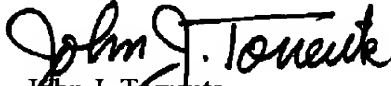
The Kaneko, et al. patent thus does not teach or suggest changing a conversion characteristic mode of the conversion means without changing the position of the lens. Applicants' amended independent claim 8, and its respective dependent claims, all of which recite such feature, thus patentably distinguish over the Kaneko, et al. patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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